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General Notes and Notices.

The successor to Bishop Westcott in the chair of Divinity at Cambridge University, England is Professor Swete, the well-known Septuagint scholar. He lectures this term upon the Acts of the Apostles.

The Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has obtained from the Sultan a renewal of the firman to excavate in the Holy Land and Mr. F. J. Bliss, son of the President of the American College at Beyrout will continue the work of Mr. Petrie at Tel Hesi.

The Rev. W. R. Duryea of Jersey City has accepted an appointment to the chair of the "Theodore Frelinghuysen Professorship of Ethics, Christian Evidences and the English Bible" at Rutgers College.

It is announced that the Rev. Dr. Alex. MacLaren, of Manchester, England, is preparing, for publication, an exposition of the Psalms. Such a book from his hand will be welcomed with delight by all students of the Bible.

The appointment of the Rev. Owen H. Gates, Ph. D., as Instructor in Sacred Philology in Union Theological Seminary is announced. Dr. Gates is well known to readers of the *STUDENT*, and his work in his new position will be followed by many with interest.

The many friends of the Rev. Selah Merrill, D. D., of Andover, will be pleased to learn of his nomination by President Harrison to be Consul to Jerusalem. He occupied that office from 1882 to 1886, and not only satisfactorily fulfilled his duties as Consul but did excellent service in the cause of science and of Biblical research. His collection of antiquities, geological specimens and other curiosities from the Holy Land, which he has placed in the library of Andover Seminary, is one of the richest and most complete in the world.

The programme of the Bible work of the Philadelphia Local Board of the American Institute of Sacred Literature embraces a course of seven studies on the Gospel of John by Prof. A. Spaeth, of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and ten studies of the Old Testament Prophecy of the Babylonian Period by Prof. Harper. Forty lessons in New Testament Greek for beginners are given by Prof. S. K. Gifford, of Haverford College, twenty lessons in the Epistles to the Corinthians for advanced students, by Prof. E. P. Gould, of the P. E. Divinity School. Similar courses in Hebrew for beginners in charge of Rev. Jas. D. Steele, of the University of Penn., and for advanced students in the study of Hebrew Poetry in charge of Rev. L. W. Batten, of the P. E. Divinity School are offered. The work continues from January to June 1891.

It will be of interest to some readers to know the method and basis of working on which the excavations in the Orient are carried on. Mr. Flinders Petrie announces a new arrangement just consummated with the Egyptian author-

ities according to which he will henceforth excavate in Egypt. The specifications are as follows: (1) The Museum at Gizeh takes all objects discovered of which it has no duplicates. (2) The finder gets the rest on certain conditions, (a) that he present the larger part to public museums, (b) that he publish the results of his "finds" within two years, otherwise (c) the government of Egypt gets one-half the remainder. (3) In the case of gold and silver discovered one-half goes to the finder according to its intrinsic value. Mr. Petrie says that he always gives the intrinsic value of all gold and silver "finds" to his workmen, as that is the only way to save any of it which he does not personally unearth.

Biblical Scholarship suffers another loss in the death of the English scholar, Edward H. Plumptre, Dean of Wells. Dean Plumptre had a pre-eminent gift of insight into biblical life and thought coupled with a charming literary style. His commentaries on Ecclesiastes in the Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges, on the Synoptic Gospels in the Handy Commentary, on the Acts in the same series, as well as other contributions to Biblical Exegesis in Smith's Bible Dictionary and numerous periodicals are all characterized by learning and keen discernment as well as originality. The scholarship of Plumptre was not limited to biblical lines. He was an eminent student of the Greek poets and of Dante.

An interesting series of lectures under the general topic of the Assyrian Monuments and the Bible is announced under the auspices of the Lowell Ministerial Union to be given in Lowell, Mass., by Professor D. G. Lyon of Harvard University. The subjects are as follows: The Ruins and the Books, Story of the recovery of the Assyrian art and literary products after a burial of twenty-four centuries; The Beginnings, Assyrian versions of the Creation and the Deluge; The Patriarchs, Account of the Babylonian letters found in Egypt in 1887, and the wonderful picture they give of Palestine shortly before the Exodus of the Hebrews; The History, Illustrations of the important part played by Assyria and Babylon in Israel's history; The Prophets, Influence of Assyrian and Babylonian relations on the subject and form of the Prophetic Message; The Psalms, the nature and Comparison of Hebrew and Babylonian Psalmody.

A Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church at Lexington, Mo., according to a recent report of its work is well abreast of the recent progressive movements in Bible study. Not only is the school divided into five grades but it appears that at the end of each quarter a special examination is held: at which each scholar, who will consent to take the examination, is examined separately and apart, and is carefully graded, as in a day or secular school. Those who pass successfully four successive examinations are entitled to rewards. The Training Class and the First Grade have a part of their examination in writing. They recite orally the titles, texts and questions in the Shorter Catechism, and write out answers to questions on the Bible lessons. In all the other grades the examinations are oral throughout. The questions are not given to the scholars until they come to the examination. It is understood that any fair question on the course may be asked. At the last examination thirty-two scholars, about one-third of the average attendance, passed the examination successfully. Fourteen of these had also passed the three preceding examina-

tions and received their reward. Such work shows what may be done in an average Sunday School by earnest purpose and persistent energy along the lines of a real and a fruitful Bible study.

A pamphlet of great interest by reason of what it implies and suggests is that entitled "Papers on Old Testament Prophecy, Class, of '91, Amherst College, with an Introductory Statement regarding the study of the English Bible in Amherst College." The publication is made under the direction of Dr. G. S. Burroughs, professor of the English Bible at Amherst. Six Theses are selected from those presented by members of the class and here printed. The titles are as follows: The Historical Situation in the Book of Amos; The Personality of Amos as seen in his Prophecy; The Characteristics of Divine Love as portrayed in the Book of Hosea; The Relation of Religion and Morality in the Ten Tribes as revealed in Amos and Hosea; The Characteristics of Messianic Prophecy in the Ten Tribes as adapted to their Situation; the Prize Thesis—The Literary Feature of Prophecy as illustrated in the Books of Joel, Amos and Hosea. Professor Burroughs, in his introductory paper sums up the results of this kind of Bible study as being "increased respect for the wealth of beauty and the power of truth found in the Scripture literature, Increased humility before great subjects, whose magnitude and difficulty are clearly seen. Increased reverence for the personalities of Bible history, profound reverence for the Christ. Fortified, intelligent Christian faith, a mind open to the evidence of experimental religion. Increased reading of the Bible in private; increased devotional appropriation to self of the life which it contains."

The second number (dated February 16th 1891) of "The Critical Review of Theological and Philosophical Literature," edited by Professor S. D. Salmond and published by T. and T. Clark has appeared and is full of interesting and valuable material. It contains among others the following reviews of books important for biblical students: Frazer's "The Golden Bough: a Study in Comparative Religion," (7pp.) by Prof. A. Macalister; Cave's "Scriptural Doctrine of Sacrifice and Atonement," (3pp.) by Prof. Marcus Dods; Salmon's "Introduction to the New Testament," (7pp.) by Rev. J. A. Cross; Carpenter's "The First Three Gospels; their origin and relations," (5pp.) by Prof. Iverach; Schurer's new volume of "The Jewish People in the time of Jesus Christ," by Vernon Bartlett; G. A. Smith's "Book of Isaiah 40-66," (8pp.) by Prof. H. E. Ryle; Mead's "Supernatural Revelation," (5pp.) by Principal Simon; Gladstone's "Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture," (4pp.) by Prof. James Robertson. The work in these critical reviews is excellently done and will be of great service to clergymen and others who wish a guide in buying theological works. The tone of the journal is distinctly favorable to modern criticism while it manifests also an admirable impartiality in its choice of contributors and in the character of its judgments. The "Review" has met with a favorable reception and, it is hoped, will take an assured position in the theological world.

The Young Men's League of the American Church of Berlin have issued a strong appeal to American Christians, and one which should claim the interest and helpful response of readers of the *STUDENT*. This appeal states that

more than 1000 American students are now studying in Berlin of whom 150 to 200 are in the University. This body of men and women are exposed to great temptation and need the assistance and beneficent influence of a church home. The American Church, founded in 1881, is poorly provided with accommodations for supplying this need. It rents a room from the German Methodists in an inconvenient part of the city, for one service each Sunday at which every seat is filled. At the Sunday evening service at the pastor's house, many must be excluded for lack of room. The students cannot possibly do more than to *support these services*. A church building is needed, and the lot alone will cost sixty thousand dollars. Twenty thousand dollars is now in the bank and ten thousand more is pledged. Pews are wanted endowed at one thousand dollars each to bear the name of an individual, a society, a college or seminary. The work of the Church is thoroughly spiritual and testimonials of blessing received there have come from America, England, Ireland, Japan, Australia, and the Sandwich Islands. The pastor, the Rev. J. H. W. Stuckenberg, is doing, in these circumstances, a great work.

Subscriptions to help in this important crisis of the American Church in Berlin will be received and acknowledged by the editor of this journal or by Mrs. Ex-President Cleveland, 816 Madison Ave., New York City; Rev. Dr. L. T. Chamberlain, 491 Classon Ave., Brooklyn, New York, and by the Rev. Dr. J. H. W. Stuckenberg, Berlin, Germany, 18 Buelow-Strasse.

Dr. Winslow, the energetic American representative of the Egypt Exploration Fund, makes some recent announcements which are of interest. He says, "The lectures of Miss Amelia B. Edwards have largely increased the popular knowledge of ancient Egypt, and have inspired many to read and study the history of that wonderful land. Their publication (by Harper and Brothers) will impress many of her readers with the vast importance to science of further exploration in Egypt, and will also add to the popular interest in the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund. The terrible obliteration or mutilation of monumental records the present season, too shocking to credit were the statements not fully specified and verified, should stir a great multitude to see that exploration and research be vigorously pushed, and more valuable history be rescued ere it be too late. The imperative need of a prompt and liberal support for this Cause is emphasized by articles in the leading magazines, reviews, illustrated weeklies, standard journals and dailies, of England and the United States. Three hundred men of the highest rank in education science, theology, letters, arts, oratory, business, finance, law, and public life, have subscribed to the Fund. The Annual Report, with list of patrons and subscribers, balance sheet, lectures, account of annual meeting, etc., etc., is mailed to each donor. The entire yearly costs of exploration, including publication, average from \$7,000 to \$9,000. Entirely without endowment the Society is absolutely dependent on voluntary contributions, even for this season's labors. All donors or subscribers to the season's explorations of \$5 or upwards receive the illustrated quarto volume of the season. (The next book will be *Bubastis I.*) Previous volumes, such as *Tanis I*, *Naukratis I*, are \$5 each. It is hoped that all who can will subscribe liberally to the Cause for itself. All services for the Fund by its officials are a gratuity. Patrons are those who contribute annually not less than \$25, with the privilege to withdraw from the list at any time. They receive the season's book and annual report. Will you honor the list of patrons with your name? Address: Rev. W. C. Winslow, 525 Beacon St., Back Bay, Boston.